

Family & Friends..... November 1, 2023

October is going out with an abundance of cold weather that has arrived upon us. What will November hold for us? The leaves in November will turn from their bright colors to a dark, rich and crisp color. They will flutter with every rainstorm and wisp of wind. They will dance in the air and circle to the ground. The trees will go dormant in preparation for their winter sleep. While the trees are sleeping, we will be cleaning up their leaves! The month of November is especially ripe with the spirit of giving! We can open our eyes to the opportunities that are available to serve. We can discipline our minds to recognize and be grateful for life's blessings, both large and small, and make our days into joy-filled days for others. Thanksgiving will also be here in a few weeks. It is a day to be with Family & Friends, helping others, and being thankful and grateful for all our many blessings. Count your many blessings; name them one by one. To God Be the Glory!

For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with gratitude. (1 Timothy 4:4)

We are always happy to have our visitors: Kristina Costello and Brain and April, Emillia & Marcie Williams (Bentonville), Hannah Coalson and Corbin Mabry (Pea Ridge), Staci Zanner, Chris & Karrie O'Neal (BV).

Those on our prayer list: Lynn Barnica will have his biopsy this week. Homer Makinson, Doug Klingman, and Cheryl Royer are still recovering. Continue to remember and pray for Eddie Waters, Jacob McCoy's father, Jason, Susan Duffy, Janice LaPorte, Amy Rooney, Donna Rowland, and our missionaries.

Children's Home List: Green beans, chili beans, Spam, canned tuna, Jell-O, snacks, and toothpaste. Food Pantry: Stove Top Stuffing mix, green beans, cranberry sauce, canned sweet potatoes & instant mashed potatoes, pumpkin pie filling, pie crusts, marshmallows, & turkey gravy.

We give a big welcome to Peter, Andrea, and Matthew Wald, our newest members who placed membership Sunday. Be sure to get acquainted with this sweet family.

The Fall Festival was a huge success. Thank you to everyone who helped to make it that way. A big thank you to those who brought cakes, candy, all the things needed for this event, decorated set up, and cleaned up!

Gratitude is the memory of a glad heart. Love you, stay safe.

Karen

ELDERS

Tracy Bowman.....479-899-3089
John Caylor.....903-520-2131
Dallas Dobbs.....479-640-49439
Perry Johnson.....913-707-8379
Ray Reiss.....903-908-0203
Jerry Snyder.....479-282-5501

DEACONS

Mark Bagwell John Bowman Chris Johnson Josh Porter Joe Hott
Randall Hunt Terry Roberts Aaron Sloan Tyler White

MINISTERS

Jeff Grisham.....479-531-9135
Parker Willis.....615-587-3208
Cory Spruiell.....501-941-4525

Non-Profit Org.
Permit No. 206
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Bentonville, AR
72712

Bella Vista
CHURCH OF CHRIST

REACHING FATHERS - MOVING CLOSER - GROWING DEEPER

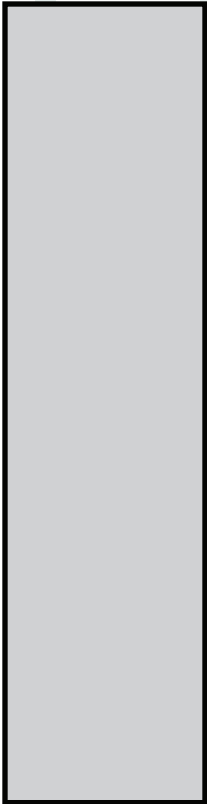
Highway 71 and County Road 40
989 NW McNelly Road
Bentonville, AR 72712

Return Service Requested

Phone: 479/273-2434

www.bellavistachurchofchrist.com

SUNDAY	8:15 AM
Early Worship	9:30 AM
Bible Class (Livestreamed)	10:30 AM
Worship (Livestreamed)	
WEDNESDAY	9:45 AM
Ladies' Class	7:00 PM
Bible Classes (Livestreamed)	



Wrestling With the Past

We've been there before. Chances are, we will be there again. We do our best to follow Jesus and to live the life to which he has called us. We love him and we want nothing more than to please him. But then it happens: a careless word, an attitude that leads us to mistreat another, or maybe it an opportunity to demonstrate our love for and faith in Jesus is presented and we fail. Perhaps it seems that this happens to us all too frequently and we are left wondering what to do.

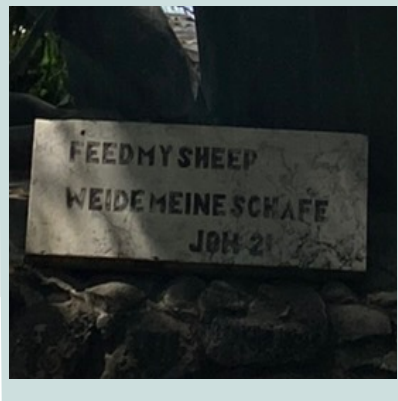
It is somewhat comforting to see that Scripture is full of people like us: people who may have the best of intentions, but often struggle or fail. It is also helpful to see how to deal with these failures when the happen. John helps us navigate these situations in the narrative he records in the final chapter of his gospel.

Peter, the apparent leader of the disciples, the impulsive spokesman for the group, had failed his Master. Although he had been one of the first disciples called by Jesus, and had followed Jesus closely, Peter had failed to stand up for Jesus at a critical time. Mere hours before the arrest of Jesus, Peter had made the claim that even in the face of death, he would not leave the side of the man he had followed for more than three years. In the courtyard of the high priest, however, when reality began to set in as to the fate of his

LIFELINES



master, Peter had failed. He had denied being a disciple of Jesus to everyone within earshot. Then, the rooster crowed. It is with the echoing of the rooster's crow in Peter's ears and the vivid memory of that terrible night that the conversation between him and Jesus took place early one morning on the shore of the Sea of Galilee.



John tells us that seven of the disciples of Jesus had spent the night fishing but had come up empty. It is early in the morning when they encounter the risen Lord. After guiding these seven men to a miraculous catch, Jesus at the edge of the sea, cooked breakfast for the weary fishermen. In His usual, serving manner, he fed them yet again. After breakfast, Jesus began the conversation with Peter.

John records for us the conversation in which Jesus forgave and restored Peter. This scene between Jesus and Peter is one of the most spectacular interchanges in the whole Bible. It is very instructive in how we deal with the times when we fall short.

Jesus began the conversation by asking Peter a simple question that he would repeat three times, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" In each case, Peter answered the questions from Jesus by saying, "Lord, you know I love you." Each of Peter's responses is met with a directive from the Lord. "Feed my lambs." "Tend my sheep." "Feed my sheep."

I believe this to be very instructive as we deal with those times when we fail. It seems that Jesus knows what we need. We cannot deny our failures and act like they never happened. We need to remember the failures of our past and the fact that without the blood of Jesus, we stand guilty before God. However, we cannot let the failures of the past cause paralysis in the present. Jesus knows that we are better off when we take the focus off ourselves and focus instead on serving others; feeding and tending the sheep.

I think we can see that while serving Jesus and serving others is not a way in which we earn our forgiveness; it is a way that we show that we have been forgiven. It is evidence of a changed life. We see here that while Jesus freely offers forgiveness, we are to be different people as a result. Our actions, our behavior, our attitudes toward others are to reflect the fact that we have been saved by His grace. Repentance requires a change in our lives, and the motive for repentance is our love for Jesus.

Also, we find in this passage that this love for Jesus is the proper motivation for serving Jesus and others. We can serve, worship, give, and be involved in Kingdom business without loving. But, we cannot love Jesus without serving Him and others, submitting to His commands, and striving to become the person He has asked us to be. In our relationship with Jesus, motive matters, and this passage makes this point obvious to us.

The final thing we ought to notice from this narrative is very impressive about the one we follow. In the narrative, it appears that Jesus took Peter away from the group to talk with him. A beautiful thing about Jesus that we can see in this narrative is that even though Peter's denial was quite public, Jesus wanted to talk with him privately to heal their relationship. Jesus knew what was in Peter's heart. He could see that Peter wanted nothing more than forgiveness and to enjoy the relationship they had before the denials. And, true to his nature, Jesus stood ready to forgive.

In this, we see a loving and forgiving God, not a vindictive one. His desire is not to humiliate his followers, but for them to be changed people as a result of the grace offered.

It is easy to get discouraged when we fail. Satan would like for us to think that our failures permanently disqualify us from ever being close to Jesus again. John reminds us in this narrative about the grace and forgiveness offered by Jesus that gives us hope. He stands ready to heal, forgive, and to change us if we are willing.

-JEFF GRISHAM

Thank You to all who made our Fall Festival a great success! We had over 230 folks in attendance with 160 visitors. Thanks to all who participated, served, set up and cleaned up. A Special Thanks to the committee who orgnaized and planned this great event:

**Austin & Kayla Bishop
Tori Hunt
Cory Spruiell
Alana Tucker
Parker Willis**



SUNDAY SERVANTS November 5, 2023

First Service

Welcome, Prayer & Scripture Josh Metheny Song Leader Sammy McCain
Greeters Josh Porter, Billy Helms, David Saunders Communion Scripture & Prayer Gary Oliveira
Closing Prayer Jerry Snyder
Nursery Workers Brenda Tucker, Alana Tucker

Second Service

Welcome, Prayer & Scripture Mark Bagwell Song Leader Don Butcher
Greeters Josh Porter, John Winslow, Eric Gibson Communion Scripture & Prayer Jeff Oxford
Closing Prayer Perry Johnson
Nursery Workers Megan Ballard, Kayla Bishop Van Driver Kyle Dillard

November Worship Coordinators

Worship Coordinator Mark Lunsford Streaming Coordinator Marquis Elliott
Audio Coordinator Jim Caylor Video Coordinator Aaron Bagwell